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MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Susie Byrd, City Representative, District #2
DATE: February 22, 2010
RE: Item 16, Neighborhood Traffic Program, Phase II

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Dear Mayor and Council:

Staff has included a request for \$250,000 for a project called Neighborhood Traffic Program, Phase II and will fund the design for Monroe, Van Buren and Trowbridge. I wanted to refresh your memory about how this got into the mix for consideration.

These projects are not eligible for the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program under the existing guidelines even though they are streets fronted entirely by single family residences and even though they are dangerous streets with high speeds and a history of repeated collisions. These streets were converted decades ago to act like arterials, carrying high volumes of traffic at high speeds, even though they are residential in character.

When the traffic program became available, residents on all of these streets requested funding but were denied, even though the streets exhibited the characteristics that we are trying to combat in our program (high speeds and repeated accidents). The program says that you must have one lane of traffic in each direction. In the case of Trowbridge, there are two lanes in each direction, and in the case of Van Buren and Monroe, these streets are one way streets with two lanes going in one direction.

During our strategic session last year, I asked the Council to consider funding the design of these types of streets (neighborhood streets that have been reengineered to act as arterials) with the intent to fund the construction during the 2011 General Bond Election. The Council agreed and that is why the design for these streets is in this CO issuance. They are neighborhood streets, and they exhibit dangerous conditions.

For example, under the 2nd Round of applications Monroe ranked #7 and Van Buren ranked #1 out of all the applications that were sent in that time period. And out of all the 63 streets that have qualified for physical measures through the life of the program, Monroe would rank #16 with a score of 81.99 and Van Buren would rank #1 with a score of 110.42.

## **MONROE**

### **Traffic Studies – June 10, 2008 – 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed / Volume**

- 1) Between Dyer & Partello - 33 MPH / 2,398 ADT
- 2) Between Stevens & Lackland – 40 MPH / 2,199
- 3) Between Byron & Russell – 39 MPH / 2,066
- 4) Between Cranfill & Justus – 36 MPH / 1,390
- 5) Between Raynor & Cranfill – 38 MPH / 1,314

### **3 Collisions**

- 1) Monroe & Byron
- 2) Between Cranfill & Justus
- 3) Between Partello & Dyer

## **VAN BUREN**

### **Traffic Studies – June 10, 2008 – 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed / Volume**

- 1) Between Lackland & Stevens – 39 MPH / 2,460 ADT
- 2) Between Russell & Byron – 39 MPH / 2,339
- 3) Between Justus & Cranfill – 39 MPH / 1,716
- 4) Between Cranfill & Raynor – 39 MPH / 1,607
- 5) Between Dyer & Partello – 34 MPH / 2,542

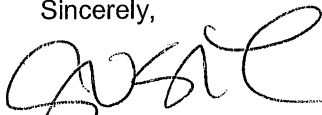
### **7 Collisions**

- 1) Van Buren & Dyer
- 2) Van Buren & Piedras
- 3) Van Buren & Dyer
- 4) Van Buren & Stevens
- 5) Between Raynor & Cranfill
- 6) Van Buren & Copia
- 7) Between Russell & Byron

Trowbridge, particularly on Westbound trips, exhibits 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of 36 and 38 miles per hour. There have been numerous accidents at the four way stop of Trowbridge and Radford and lots of complaints about the safety of crossing schoolchildren at the school crossings at Radford and at Raynolds. For your information, I have included letters that I have received detailing these concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susie Byrd  
City Council Representative, District 2

**Byrd, Susannah M**

**From:** ochdav6@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 04, 2009 4:27 PM  
**To:** District #2  
**Cc:** AustinTerraceHD@aol.com  
**Subject:** Failed Traffic Engineering in District #2 at Trowbridge/Radford  
**Attachments:** DSCF0053.JPG; DSCF0054.JPG; DSCF0055.JPG

Dear Ms. Byrd,

I am offering this email and the attached pictures as a reminder of the ongoing traffic issues which we have discussed in the past. FYI - Just shortly after midnight on September 18, 2009 another tragic, but preventable traffic accident once again disturbed the tranquility of our once peaceful neighborhood. The attached pictures represent our beautiful neighborhood and some of the traffic engineering problems that contributed to the tragic auto accident which caused the damages. This is the latest in a series of horrible traffic accidents that my family, friends, and neighbors have endured over the years. Shamefully, the remedies to these traumatic traffic nightmares could and should have been in place long ago. These traffic problems are well documented and have been brought to your attention on several occasions at your district meetings as well as at meetings during the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program public outreach. Several of my neighbors and other stakeholders will attest to addressing these issues to you and several other city officials, as well as to the consultants of the NTMP, in public forums. In fact we were lead to believe that this intersection would be, according to the NTMP consultants & several staffers, one of the first to be modified and plans were supposedly in the works to re-design this intersection and use it as a prime example of how effective traffic calming tools can be. You personally promised us a roundabout as we discussed the use of curb extensions, raised intersections, etc... However, a ridiculous and incredible change in priorities allowed funding for nothing more than stripping to delineate parking lanes from traffic lanes! The time to pass the blame is over. The time to take meaningful and positive action is long overdue. The time to prevent another horrible traffic accident is now! On behalf of my family, neighbors, and other stakeholders, I am requesting a meeting with you, Kimberly Forsyth of City Engineering, and Mark Alvarado of Neighborhood Associations to address our concerns. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the morning of saturday October 17, 2009 - time & place to be announced. Please check with the others and coordinate your schedules in order to attend. Please forward your response to my home address and copy my email address to confirm that you, Mr. Alavarado, and Ms. Forsyth will be present.

Thank you,  
David Ochoa  
4431 Trowbridge Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79903

## Byrd, Susannah M

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**From:** Adjemian [fencers98@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 10:02 PM  
**To:** Byrd, Susannah M  
**Cc:** ochdav6@aol.com  
**Subject:** High Traffic on Trowbridge Street@Austin Terrace

Hello Ms Byrd,

As a member of the Austin Terrace Neighborhood Assoc. I am sending you this e-mail since both my wife and I are unable to attend the City Council meeting this coming week. We moved into our home at 1505 Hardaway and Trowbridge in March 1988 and one thing that has been a constant issue has been the high speed and volume of traffic on Trowbridge.

There have been numerous accidents in front of our home and in fact in June of 1990 a driver traveling West on Trowbridge in the middle of the afternoon, lost control of his vehicle and crashed into our corner wall at Trowbridge and Hardaway and brought down approximately 25 feet of rock wall. I had been watering that exact corner just minutes before the accident. Luckily, the driver did not perish however he was severely injured.

We were one of the first households to organize the neighborhood for a Historical District with the idea that the character of the neighborhood would not change along with the traffic issues being addressed. I am glad to say the character of the area has been preserved however the traffic issues are worst. There are numerous people, both young and old who walk and run in the neighborhood and it is especially dangerous for them when they attempt to cross Trowbridge Street at the cross ways.

I would like to ask for your immediate assistance in trying to find a solution to these traffic issues. I do know that the recent Neighborhood Traffic Management Program has failed to address these traffic problems because Trowbridge was modified to serve as an arterial for US-54, this designation must be changed.

My wife and I, being members of the Austin Terrace Neighborhood Assoc, are committed in trying to change the traffic issues on Trowbridge as are a large majority of our neighbors. We will do anything in our power to change this terrible and dangerous traffic problem.

Thank you for your immediate attention and time into this matter.

Sincerely,

Ed Adjemian  
1505 Hardaway  
El Paso, TX 79903  
915-329-4066

**Byrd, Susannah M**

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**From:** Michael Cervantes [zepotex@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 8:42 PM  
**To:** Byrd, Susannah M  
**Cc:** ochdav6@aol.com  
**Subject:** AUSTIN TERRACE ASSOCIATION CONCERN

Mrs. Byrd,

I write this letter as a resident of the Austin Terrace neighborhood. I reside at 4425 Trowbridge, near Trowbridge and Radford intersection. When I moved here 15 years ago the prior resident Mrs. Casner left me a mangled city street sign in my back yard that reads Trowbridge and Radford. Mrs. Casner told me of the numerous accidents that had occurred at that intersection. I did not see the importance in her telling me of these accidents at the time, until I witnessed my first accident. Since then numerous accidents have occurred at this intersection, not including others that have occurred on Trowbridge, a 30 mph residential street in my vicinity.

I have seen hit and runs, street racing, spin outs, drivers running the stop sign, traffic backed up, broken bottles, cars broken down, and many emergency vehicles. People have been killed at this intersection.

At the end of this last year two accidents have occurred in which the corner wall was hit. The last time was in the middle of the night when I was awoken from my sleep to first feel a tremor like thud that shook the house. I quickly got up, my family awoken from the tremor as well, I rushed to the front door, down my front steps in a dark haze to see a car wrecked in the middle of the intersection. The silence broken as I heard other neighbors shouting; I turned around and told my son to call 911; I feared the worst.

From what I have heard the person made it through the accident but was speeding on a Thursday night when he lost control and flew about 50 feet into my neighbor's wall. He was lucky to have made it because his car was in bad shape. If he would have had a passenger they would not have made it.

The problem seems to be getting worst as traffic increases and the occurrences appear to be more frequent. It's only a matter of time before someone is injured or killed again. This is a major problem, concern, safety hazard, and a threat to the protection of property. I have heard some good ideas at the last association meeting but hope that action will be put forth and solutions will follow.

As a final note, in November two years past; a car crashed into my front rockwall which faces Trowbridge case #07326029.

Sincerely  
Michael Cervantes

2/22/2010

From: [mceniceros07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mceniceros07@sbcglobal.net) [mailto:[mceniceros07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mceniceros07@sbcglobal.net)]  
Sent: Mon 5/18/2009 10:37 PM  
To: District #2  
Subject: Problem ((Other))

From: Marina Ceniceros  
[mceniceros07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mceniceros07@sbcglobal.net)  
Telephone:  
Other Concerns: school signs

Mrs. Byrd, I write to you with a concern as probably other parents within this area. Being that there are two school's within range the traffic in the morning are just overwhelming at times; difficult for the children in the area that walk home. Between Trowbridge and Raynolds, there are school signs displayed. Nonetheless, there is a cut off point before arriving Radford st. where there is a cross walk marked on the ground, yet cars do not respect the speed or the fact that there will possibly be children trying to walk across Trowbridge. Is it possible to place more school signs for those cars turning from the north and south bound of the I-10.

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